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EXETER PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

PORT MEDICAL OFFICER

FOR THE YEAR

1954.

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EXETER PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

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PORT HEALTH ADMINISTRATION - 1954.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to present to you my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1954, during which year a total of 394 ships with a net tonnage of 54,727 tons entered the port which represented an increase over the previous year of 5,261 tons and is therefore the highest recorded during the last nine years. The tonnage from foreign ports also rose by 1,901 to 7,005 tons, the majority of the ports concerned being on the western coast of France.

As in recent years principal imports have been coal, petrol and timber.

On the whole the general standard of cleanliness of the ships was satisfactory although the amenities provided on board varied greatly. In the older ships the living accommodation for the men in the fo'c'sle is usually cramped, stuffy, with inadequate light and ventilation, and it is hoped that before long the older ships with this type of accommodation will be replaced by more modern and up-to-date vessels providing the necessary standard of living quarters so necessary if the health of the seamen is to be maintained.

No cases of infectious diseases occurred on board the ships and no cases of infestation amongst the crews were notified.

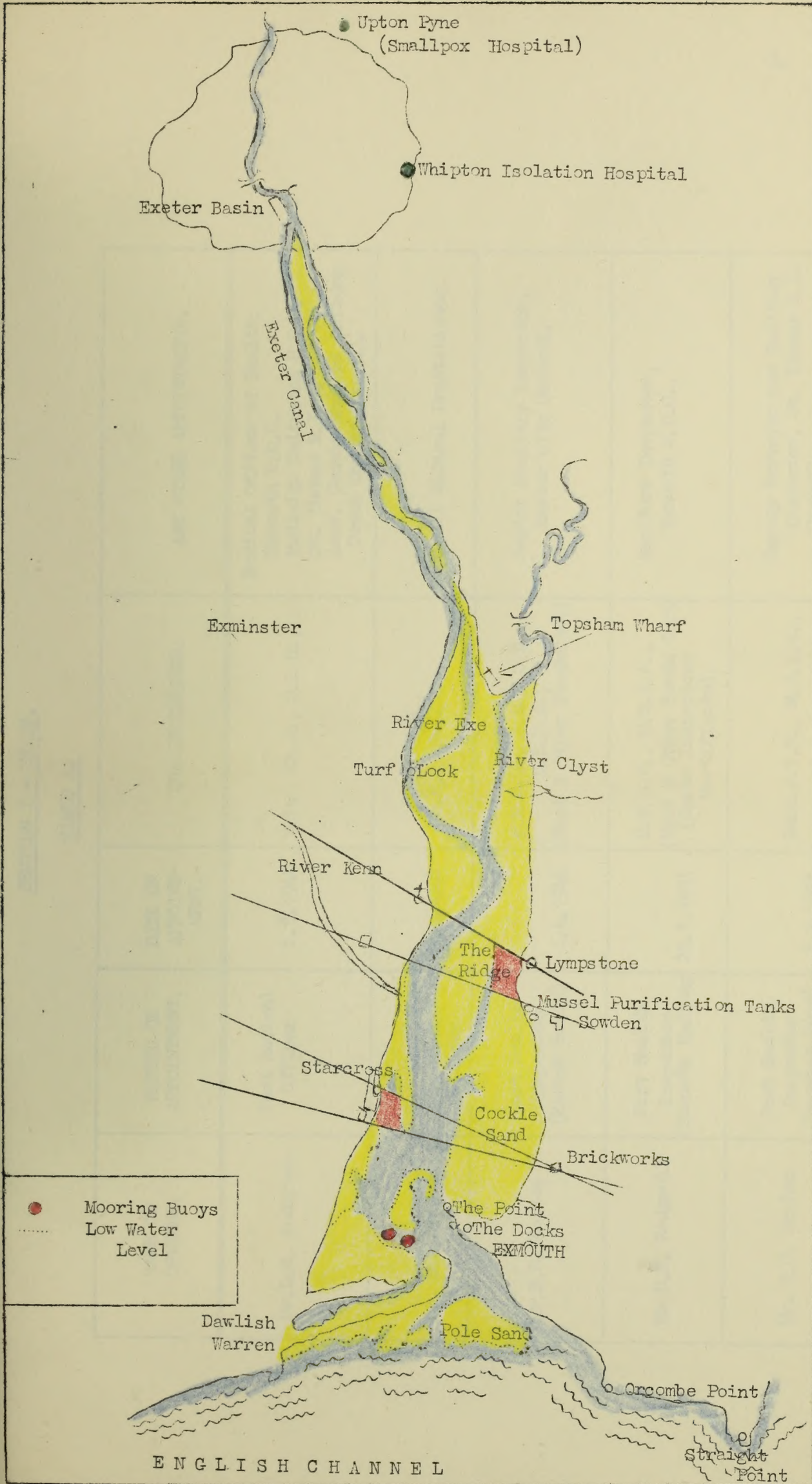
As in the previous year the members and staff of the Exeter Port Health Authority inspected the district, such inspection including a visit to the Exeter Basin, the Topsham Wharf, the Exmouth Dock and the Exe Shellfish Limited. On the return journey from Exmouth an opportunity was taken of visiting the Lympstone Mussel Purification Station and at Topsham, the storage buildings of Messrs. J. Rank Ltd., were visited. This annual inspection of the Exeter Port Health district does, in my opinion, serve a most useful purpose in that it gives the members of the Exeter Port Health Authority an opportunity of seeing the extent of the district, the type of work which they administer, and of meeting the various officers employed by them.

I wish to take this opportunity of thanking the Chairman, and members of the Exeter Port Health Authority and all the members of the staff for their great help and co-operation given to me during the year.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient servant,

L.G. ANDERSON.

Port Medical Officer.



DIAGRAMATIC REPRESENTATION OF EXETER PORT HEALTH AREA.

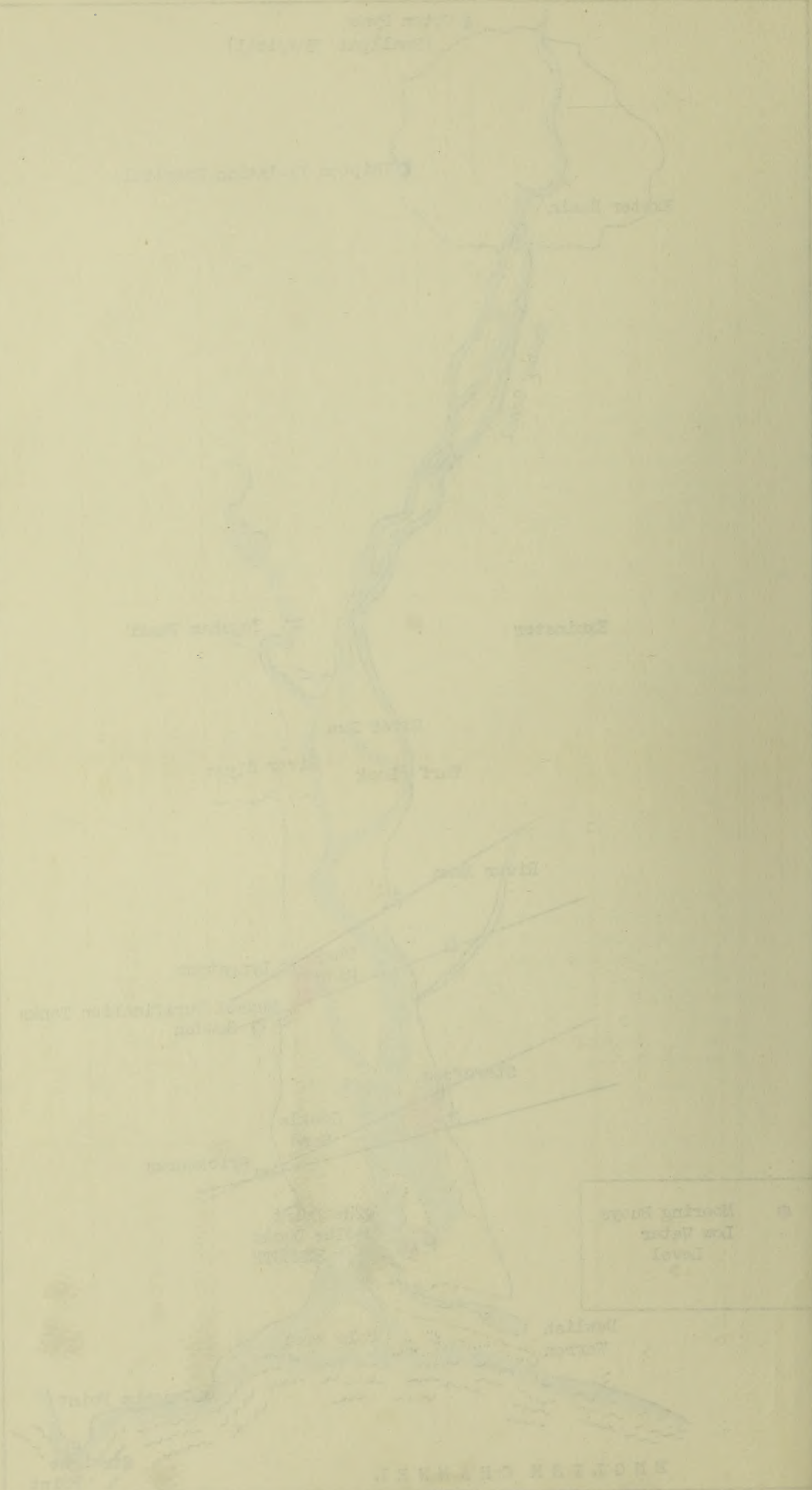


TABLE A.

NAME OF OFFICER.	NATURE OF APPOINTMENT.	DATE OF APPOINTMENT.	QUALIFICATIONS.	ANY OTHER APPOINTMENTS.
Dr. L.G. Anderson	Port Medical Officer	1.8.1948	M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.,	Medical Officer of Health: Exmouth U.D.C. Budleigh Salterton U.D.C. St. Thomas R.D.C. Asst. County Medical Officer, Devon County Council.
Dr. D.L.H. Moore	Deputy Port Medical Officer	1.4.1941	B.A., M.B., Ch.B., B.A.O.,	General Medical Practitioner.
Mr. F.G. Davies	Port Health Inspector (Exeter Basin)	1.4.1946	M.R.S.I., A.M.I.S.E., M.S.I.A., (Meat & Other Foods Cert)	Senior Sanitary Inspector, Exeter City Council.
Mr. D.R. Redgwell	Port Health Inspector (Exmouth Harbour)	22.1.1951	M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., (Meat & Other Foods Cert) (Smoke Inspectors Certificate).	Sanitary Inspector, Exmouth U.D.C.,
Mr. K.C. Benham	Port Health Inspector (Topsham Quay)	1.4.1953	Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A.,	Deputy Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, St. Thomas R.D. Council.

SECTION II - AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE DISTRICT DURING THE YEAR.

TABLE B.

SHIPS FROM	NUMBER.	TONNAGE	NUMBER INSPECTED		NUMBER OF SHIPS REPORTED AS HAVING HAD, DURING THE VOYAGE, INFECTIOUS DISEASES ON BOARD.
			BY THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.	BY THE SANITARY INSPECTOR.	
Foreign Ports	44	7,005	6	39	Nil
Coastwise	353	47,722	1	346	Nil
Total	394	54,727	7	385	Nil

SECTION III - CHARACTER OF SHIPPING AND TRADE DURING THE YEAR.

PASSENGER TRAFFIC	Number of Passengers INWARD	Nil
	Number of Passengers OUTWARD	Nil
CARGO TRAFFIC	Principal IMPORTS	1. Coal 2. Petrol 3. Timber 4. Cement 5. Grain 6. Oyster Shells
	Principal EXPORTS	1. Spent Oxide
	FOREIGN	Bordeaux Hamina La Legue Rotterdam Caen Horsens Norrsundet St. Malo Hamburg Le Havre Odense
PRINCIPAL PORTS from which ships arrive.	COASTWISE	London Keadby Southampton Plymouth Goole Rochester Hull Poole Blyth Aberdeen Newhaven

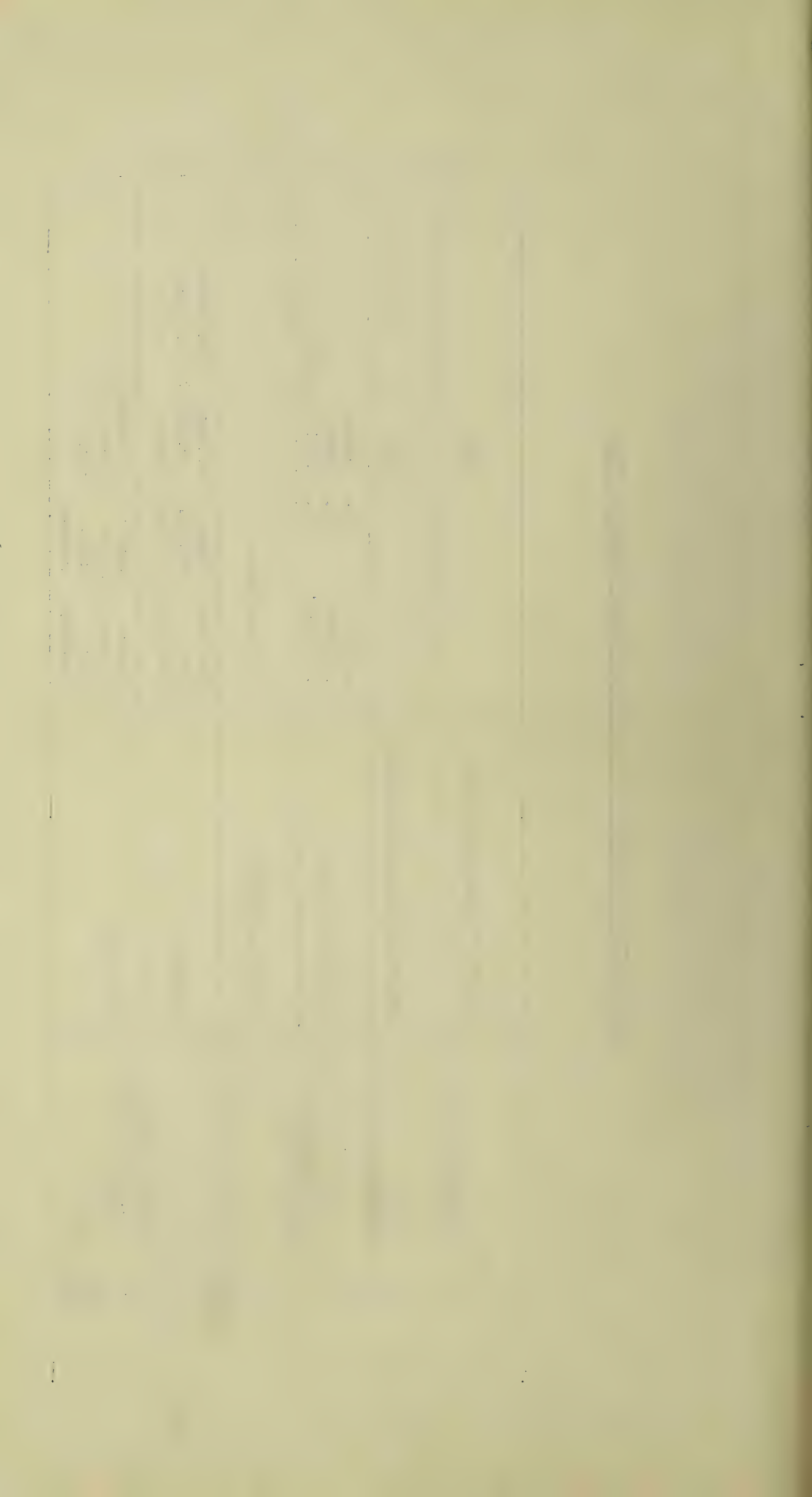


TABLE C (1).

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Table showing Annual tonnage of shipping entering the port () No. of ships. + Figures not available.

(a) Refers to all ships entering the port.

Year	Exmouth (Harbour)	Exeter (Basin)	Topsham	Total
1946	+	+	+	23,980 (141)
1947	+	+	+	28,007 (222)
1948	21,143 (133)	14,431 (144)	-	35,574 (277)
1949	19,174 (100)	17,559 (187)	-	36,733 (287)
1950	18,245 (91)	18,626 (197)	-	36,871 (288)
1951	19,986 (95)	19,299 (214)	-	39,285 (309)
1952	22,198 (106)	20,332 (204)	-	42,530 (310)
1953	24,950 (105)	24,212 (243)	304 (2)	49,466 (350)
1954	27,366 (117)	27,171 (276)	190 (1)	54,527 (394)

(b) Refers to ships from foreign ports and included in (a) above.

Year	Exmouth (Harbour)	Exeter (Basin)	Topsham	Total
1946	+	+	+	3,772 (26)
1947	+	+	+	2,484 (20)
1948	3,035 (20)	911 (9)	-	3,946 (29)
1949	3,651 (24)	687 (7)	-	4,338 (31)
1950	1,014 (6)	1,434 (16)	-	2,448 (22)
1951	819 (6)	2,399 (24)	-	3,218 (30)
1952	1,850 (11)	1,491 (14)	-	3,341 (25)
1953	2,780 (16)	2,206 (20)	118 (1)	5,104 (37)
1954	5,629 (28)	1,376 (13)	-	7,005 (41)

SECTION IV - INLAND BARGE TRAFFIC.

Numbers and tonnage using the district and places served by the traffic.

- NIL-

SECTION V - WATER SUPPLY.

- (1) Sources of supply for (a) the district and (b) shipping. The water supplies serving the sanitary districts are used for the shipping at their respective wharfs viz:

- (a) Exmouth Harbour - Exmouth Urban District Public supply.
- (b) Exeter Basin - Exeter City Council Public supply.
- (c) Topsham - St. Thomas R.D.C. Public supply to Topsham parish.

- (2) Reports of tests for contamination.

Routine regular tests are carried out by the responsible authorities viz: Exmouth U.D.C., St. Thomas R.D.C., and Exeter City Council. All these supplies are chlorinated and the bacteriological results were satisfactory.

- (3) Precautions taken against contamination of hydrants and hosepipes.

The hydrants and hosepipes are regularly inspected by the Port Sanitary Inspector. The hosepipes are stored under cover when not in use and are well flushed out prior to use.

- (4) Number and sanitary condition of water boats.

There are no water boats operating at this port.

SECTION VI - PUBLIC HEALTH (SHIPS) REGULATIONS, 1952.

- (1) List of Infected areas.

A copy of the list of infected areas is prepared weekly at the office of the Port Medical Officer, Templetown Lodge, Esplanade, Exmouth, and is forwarded by post to the following persons:-

- (1) Mr. J.H. Bolton, Custom's Officer, Exmouth.
- (2) Mr. F.G. Davies, Port Sanitary Inspector, Exeter Basin.
- (3) Mr. D.R. Redgwell, Port Sanitary Inspector, Exmouth Harbour.
- (4) Executive Officer, Exeter Airport, Honiton Clyst.
- (5) Mr. K.C. Benham, Port Sanitary Inspector Topsham Wharf.

(2) Radio Messages.(a) Arrangements for sending permission, by radio, for ships to enter the district.

Arrangements have been made with the Post Office for sending Wireless Messages if required. None were sent during 1953.

(b) Arrangements for receiving messages by radio from ships and for acting thereon.

Arrangements have been made with the post Office for receiving Wireless Messages if required. None were received during 1953.

(3) Notifications otherwise than by radio.Arrangements for receiving notifications otherwise than by radio and for acting thereon.

Arrangements have been made with the Post Office for the transmission of telegrams to the Port Medical Officer - None were received during the year.

A 24 hour watch is maintained at H.M.Coatguard Station Exmouth from which signals by morse or flag may be sent or received as and when necessary.

(4) Mooring Stations.(a) Ships proceeding up the canal to Exeter Basin.

There are two buoys situated in that portion of the estuary of the River Exe known as the Bight to which all ships arriving from foreign ports make fast before boarding by H.M. Customs Officers.

(b) Ships whose destination is Exmouth harbour may make fast either to the buoys, as above, or to the pier head, Exmouth.

Where action is to be taken under Regulations 22-30 the ships will be made fast to one of the buoys situated in the Bight, as above.

(5) Arrangements for:(a) Hospital accommodation for infectious diseases (other than Smallpox).

Patients suffering from infectious disease will be transferred by ambulance to the Infectious disease hospital of the Regional Hospital Board at Whipton, Exeter (T.N. No: Exeter 67158).

(b) Surveillance and follow up of contacts.

This will be undertaken by the Port Medical Officer whilst the ship is within this district. Where the ship has to proceed to another port before the expiration of the period of surveillance, the contacts will be given letters to take to the Port Medical Officer of the next port of call informing him of the circumstances.

(c) Cleansing and disinfection of ships, persons and clothing and other articles.

Disinfection of ships will, when necessary, be undertaken by the Port Sanitary Inspector, the formaldehyde method being used. Disinfection of clothing or bedding may be carried out at the steam disinfector station of the Exmouth Urban District Council or Exeter City Council.

Cleansing of verminous persons will be carried out by the Sanitary Inspector on the ship itself and his clothing, bedding etc., removed to the steam disinfector station at Exmouth or Exeter, as appropriate, for steam disinfection.

SECTION VII - SMALLPOX.

- (1) The Isolation Hospital to which smallpox cases will be sent from the district is "The Upton Pyne Smallpox Hospital" (5 miles from Exeter) Tel: No: Stoke Canon 207. The admission will be made through the Medical Officer of the Whipton Isolation Hospital, Exeter (Tel: No: Exeter 67158). The vaccination state of the Hospital Staff is up to date.
- (2) The transport of cases of smallpox will be undertaken by the infectious diseases ambulance of the Whipton Isolation Hospital one of the special hospitals of the Regional Hospital Board.

(3) Consultants:

The following consultants are available as and when necessary:-

- (1) Dr. C. Seward - 20, West Southernhay, Exeter.
 T.N. No: Exeter 2110 - Day.
 Exmouth 4120 - Night.
- (2) Dr. W.J. Laird - City Hospital, Exeter.
 T.N. No: Exeter 2671 - Office
 Exeter 3116 - Home

(4) Facilities for laboratory diagnosis of Smallpox.

Specimens for laboratory diagnosis will be sent to the:-

Virus Reference Laboratory,
 Central Public Health Laboratory,
 Colindale Avenue,
LONDON N.W.9.

SECTION VIII - VENEREAL DISEASE.

Masters of vessels are informed of the following arrangements for the diagnosis and treatment of venereal disease among merchant seamen under international arrangements.

Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital:

Mondays: 15.00 hrs to 17.00 hrs.
Fridays: 18.00 hrs to 20.00 hrs.

SECTION IX - CASES OF NOTIFIABLE AND OTHER
INFECTIOUS DISEASES ON SHIPS.

TABLE D.

Category	Disease	No of cases during year		No. of ships concerned
		Passengers	Crew	
Cases landed from ships from foreign ports	-	-	-	-
Cases which have occurred on ships from foreign ports but have been disposed of before arrival	-	-	-	-
Cases landed from other ships	-	-	-	-

SECTION X - OBSERVATIONS OF THE OCCURRENCE OF MALARIA.
IN SHIPS.

No cases of malaria were notified.

SECTION XI - MEASURES TAKEN AGAINST SHIPS INFECTED
WITH OR SUSPECTED FOR PLAGUE.

No measures were necessary under this section.

SECTION XII - MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS IN SHIPS FROM
FOREIGN PORTS.

- (1) Procedure for inspection of ships for rats. - Enquiries are made from masters of all vessels using the port concerned regarding the presence of rats, and if present, of signs of unusual mortality among the rats.
No evidence of rats was found on any ships entering the port during the year.

- (2) The bacteriological examination of rodents with special reference to rodent plague are carried out at the:-

Public Health Laboratory
7, Dix's Field,
Exeter.

No specimens of brown rats from the vicinity of the wharfs were sent for bacteriological examination during the year.

- (3) Deratting of ships.

The Exeter Port Health Authority is not a recognised authority for this purpose. A ship, requiring deratization would be referred to the port of Plymouth.

- (4) Progress of rat-proofing of ships.

The general construction of the ships and nature of the cargo of the ships using this port are not conducive to rat breeding and other than efforts to maintain a high standard of cleanliness, no action appears necessary.

TABLE E.

Rodents destroyed during the year
in ships from Foreign Ports.

Category	Number
Black rats	Nil
Brown rats	Nil
Species not known	Nil
Sent for examination	Nil
Infected with plague	Nil

TABLE F.

DERATTING CERTIFICATE AND DERATTING EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES
ISSUED DURING THE YEAR FOR SHIPS FROM FOREIGN PORTS

In accordance with the Prevention of Damage by Pests Application to Shipping Order, 1951, eleven rodent control certificates were issued during the year.

SECTION XIII - INSPECTION OF SHIPS FOR NUISANCES

TABLE G.

Inspection and Notices

Nature and Number of Inspections	Notices served		Result of Serving Notices.
	Statutory Notices	Other Notices	
Routine 385	-	-	-
TOTAL: 385	-	-	-

SECTION XIV - PUBLIC HEALTH (SHELL-FISH) REGULATIONS

1934 and 1938.

The circumstances relating to this section remain as detailed in my report for the year 1953 viz:-

- (1) Sterilization by steaming under pressure for at least six minutes, and
- (2) By an approved method of cleansing e.g., by means of water sterilized by chlorine.

Sterilization by boiling is employed at the Exe Shellfish Company, Exmouth and of the 18 samples of shellfish which were sent for bacteriological examination during the year, all were found to be satisfactory.

A mussel purification station at Lympstone is in operation and expanding rapidly. The method used being the standard Conway process i.e., single layer 48 hour treatment.

TABLE G (1).

Nature of Specimen	Number of Samples	Result, according to the Fishmongers' Company Standards.
Exe Shellfish Ltd.,		
Mussels	7	Satisfactory
Cockles	11	Satisfactory
Lympstone Mussel Purification Station		
Mussels 48 Hour Single Layer.	12	Satisfactory

SECTION XV - MEDICAL INSPECTION OF ALIENS

This port is not approved for the landing of aliens.

SECTION XVI - MISCELLANEOUS.

- (1) Arrangements for the burial on shore of persons who have died on board ship from infectious disease.

Such persons would be conveyed by the infectious disease ambulance to the mortuary at Whipton Isolation Hospital to await burial.

SECTION XIV - FURTHER RESULTS (SHELL-FISH) EXAMINATIONS

1934 and 1935

The circumstances relating to this section remain as before in my report for the year 1933 viz:-

(1) Sterilization by steaming under pressure for 45 to 60 minutes, and

(2) by an approved method of steaming e.g., in means of water sterilized by chlorine.

Sterilization by boiling is employed at the Euxine Shellfish Company, Ipswich and of the 16 samples of shellfish which were sent for bacteriological examination during the year, all were found to be satisfactory.

A mass sterilization station at Ipswich is in operation and expanding rapidly. The method used being the standard Conway process i.e., stage layer 18 hour treatment.

TABLE 2 (1)

Nature of Specimen	Number of Samples	Result, according to the Bacteriological Company Standards.
Euxine Shellfish Ltd.		
Mussels	7	Satisfactory
Coeloc	11	Satisfactory
Ipswich Mass Sterilization Station		
Mussels 18 Hour Stage Layer.	12	Satisfactory

SECTION XV - MEDICAL INVESTIGATION OF ILLNESS

This part is not approved for the landing of illness.

SECTION XVI - MISCELLANEOUS

(1) Arrangements for the burial of persons who have died on board ship from infectious disease.

Such persons would be conveyed by the infectious disease ambulance to the mortuary at Witham Isolation Hospital to await burial.